

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is not supported by either a substantial asserted utility or a well established utility.

The preamble use of a modifier appears to describe a method. However, there are no method steps or limitation cited in claim 25. It is not clear if the intention of the claim is to be a method or product claim.

Claim 25 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Specifically, since the claimed invention is not supported by either a substantial asserted utility or a well established utility for the reasons set forth above, one skilled in the art clearly would not know how to use the claimed invention.

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As discussed above, it is not clear if claim 25 is intended to claim a method or a product. At this time, it is regarded as a product claim since the preamble describes "use of a modifier". However, it is vague and indefinite because there are no method steps or limitations cited in the claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-21 are allowed because prior art doesn't teach or suggest the steps of applying said patterning means to said surface of said substrate said patterning means

being arranged to deliver a modifier to selected areas of said substrate surface, said selected areas corresponding to said required pattern or a negative thereof, said modifier comprising a chemical and being arranged to alter at said selected areas the strength of interaction between the molecules of said self-assembled monolayer and said surface of said substrate, and selectively removing or replacing areas of said self-assembled monolayer that, after step c), exhibit a lower strength of interaction between the molecules thereof and said surface of said substrate, thereby to form a self-assembled monolayer having said required pattern.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of claims 1-21, 25 in the reply filed on 7/22/09 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that because any reasonable search of the elected group of claims will be sufficient for examining the other groups of claims

This is not found persuasive because the product, apparatus, and method claims would require different searches and entail different patentability determinations, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper (MPEP 2112.01 and 2112.02).

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duy-Vu N. Deo whose telephone number is 571-272-1462. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine Norton can be reached on 571-272-1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Duy-Vu N Deo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792

10/27/09